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DESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1950

Dalkeith Press Ltd., Kettering

Urban District of Desborough

Members of the Public Health Committee :

1950 — 1951

Councillor F. A. Dimbleby (*Chairman*).
Mrs. N. C. Burditt, Mrs. A. B. Lock,
Messrs. J. Gould, G. H. Houghton, A. H. Noon, and H. W Tailby.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :
JOHN TERENCE MURPHY, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.
Also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Councils of Burton Latimer, Corby, Rothwell, the Rural District of Kettering and Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northampton County Council.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :
ARTHUR HARRIS, M.I.MUN.E., A.R.S.I.

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
KETTERING.
July, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the Desborough Urban District Council.

Mrs. Lock, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District for 1950.

The health of the district appears to be satisfactory as judged from the death rate, infantile mortality rate and the incidence of infectious diseases.

The number of children who received immunisation against Diphtheria was an increase on the previous year and this should be preserved in order to maintain a high degree of immunity among the child population.

I wish to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support throughout the year and also to the Clerk and Sanitary Surveyor for their co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,
JOHN T. MURPHY,
Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Area (Acres)	2400	2400	2400	2400	2400
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	4429	4494	4621	4645	4644
Number of Live Births	99	97	66	62	68
Legitimate	96	94	65	61	66
Illegitimate	3	3	1	1	2
Birthrate per 1,000 population	22.35	21.58	14.28	13.34	14.64
Number of Still Births	4	1	2	2	2
Legitimate	4	1	2	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	38.83	10.20	29.41	31.25	28.57
Rate per 1,000 population	0.90	0.22	0.43	0.43	0.43
Number of Deaths	47	50	47	57	43
Death rate per 1,000 population ...	10.61	11.12	10.17	11.04	8.33
Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	30.30	10.30	45.45	nil	29.41
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	—	—	—	29.41
*Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	—	3	2	3	—
*Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Malignant neoplasms ...	9	10	11	8	5
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages	—	—	1	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poloimyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	1	—

*Registrar-General's Figures.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1950

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per 1,000 live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para-typhoid Fevers	Whooping Cough	Diph-theria	Tuber-culosis	Influenza	Small-Pox	Acute Poliomylitis and Polio-encephalitis	Pneumonia	Diarr-hœa & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	15.8	0.37	11.6	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.36	0.10	—	0.02	0.46	1.9	29.8
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	17.6	0.45	12.3	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.42	0.09	—	0.02	0.49	2.2	33.8
148 Smaller Towns estd. resident populations, 25,000 — 50,000	16.7	0.38	11.6	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.33	0.10	—	0.02	0.45	1.6	29.4
London	17.8	0.36	11.8	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.39	0.07	—	0.01	0.48	1.0	16.3
Desborough Urban District	14.64	0.43	8.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21	—	0.00	0.21	0.00	29.41

The Maternal Mortality rates for :	Abortion with Sepsis	Other	Complication of Pregnancy and Delivery	Sepsis of Childbirth and Puerperium	Other compli-cations of the Puerperium	Total
England and Wales per 1,000 Total (live and still) births...	0.09	0.05	0.54	0.03	0.13	0.86
Desborough Urban District	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	2,400
Registrar-General's estimated or resident population ...	4,644
Number of inhabited houses, end of 1950	1,531
Rateable Value	£22,565
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£87

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows :—
Boot and Shoe manufacture, corset manufacture, manufacture of cardboard boxes and rigid containers, ironstone quarrying, farming.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
Legitimate	66	34	32
Illegitimate	2	2	—
Totals ...	68	36	32

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... 14.64

STILL BIRTHS	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	2	1	1

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 28.57

DEATHS	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*
	43	23	20

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...	9.26
Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—
Death-rate of infants under one year of age —	
All infants per 1,000 live births	29.41
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	30.30
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	—
Deaths from Malignant neoplasms	5
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	—

Deaths.—Comparability factor for 1950 was 0.90. The crude death-rate per 1,000 population for 1950 was 9.25 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.90 supplied by the Registrar-General gives a corrected death rate of 8.33. This death rate of 8.33 is the rate which, it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex distribution of the population of Desborough Urban District were distributed in the same proportions as that of England and Wales as a whole.

Live Birth Rates, 1950

A comparability factor has been issued for 1950 by the Registrar-General which allows for the different age and sex distribution of Desborough and provides a basis for comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

Desborough	14.64
Desborough corrected by comparability factor 1.00	14.64
England and Wales	15.8

Infantile Mortality Rates 1950

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding, and maternity and child welfare.

Desborough	29.41
England and Wales	29.8

The causes of deaths in children under one year of age with age and sex distribution are given in the following table :—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Age	*Sex*	*Cause of Death*
6 days	M.	Acute Broncho-pneumonia.

The registered causes of death were as follows :—

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
All causes	23	20	43
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	—	1
11. Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus ...	—	—	—
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	2	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	7	3	10
18. Coronary disease, angina	2	3	5

Registered causes of death—*continued.*

		Males	*Females*	*Total*
19.	Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—	—
20.	Other heart disease	3	7	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
22.	Influenza	—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	1	—	1
24.	Bronchitis	—	—	—
25.	Other disease of the respiratory system	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer and stomach duodenum ...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostrate	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	1	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	2	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	—	—	—
35.	Suicide	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory facilities.**—There were no bacteriological examinations carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton during the year 1950.

(b) **Ambulance facilities.**—The County Council became responsible for ambulance services from 5th July, 1948. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the service on behalf of the County Council for non-infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the home.**—From the 5th July, 1948 the County Council became responsible for Home Nursing services. Details of the work carried out during 1950 are as follows :—

Cases Nursed—			*Total*
General	*Midwifery*	*Maternity*	*Visits*
184	16	16	4584

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A Medical Officer attends one session a month.

The treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases passed to the Regional Hospital Board on 5th July, 1948.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—From 1941 immunisation has been offered to children between the ages of nine months and fifteen years of age.

The number of children who were immunised in 1950 is as follows:

Under 5 years	56
5 to 14 years	2
Total	58
Boosters	33

The number of children who have had a full course of immunisation—

Age at 31.12.50.	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in year	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number immunised	2	45	44	43	39

Age at 31.12.50.	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total
i.e. Born in year	1941-1945	1936-1940	under 15
Number immunised	183	220	**576**

Estimated Mid-Year population of children aged 0 - 4 years	369
Estimated Mid-Year population of children aged 5 - 14 years	543

Vaccination

The following table gives the number of vaccinations undertaken during the year :—

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Primary ...	11	12	—	3	26
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	11	11

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Report by A. Harris, M.I.Mun.E., A.R.San.I.

Water Supply.—The Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board has maintained a good supply of water both in quantity and quality throughout the year.

Two bacteriological examinations of the supply were made, one after a wet and the other during a dry period, and in both cases the analyst's remarks were "very satisfactory." No chemical examination of the water was made. The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

The whole of the population is served by the public piped supply, with the exception of five farms which are a long distance from the service mains. About one-eighth of the houses and population, mostly in the old portion of the town, is served by standpipes in the yard or at the rear of houses. During the year ten houses have had a supply taken inside instead of being served by outside arrangements. The water service to the others is direct to all dwellings.

Drainage and Sewerage.—No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal have been undertaken during the year.

The Sewage Disposal works have been well maintained and are dealing efficiently with the daily flow. The effluent produced has been uniformly good throughout the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—During the year 245 inspections were made. 50 nuisances were abated by serving informal notices. No statutory notices were found necessary.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.—The House Refuse tip and the Sewage Disposal Works have been treated at intervals during the year. Both sites are being kept free from vermin. The sewers were baited during November and no baits were taken. No infestations have been reported.

SECTION D. Housing.

Five houses were completed during 1950 by private enterprise and 22 were completed by the Council. The Council had 34 houses and private enterprise 1 in course of construction at the end of the year.

Factories Act, 1937.—24 inspections of factories were made. Two informal notices were served referring to insufficient sanitary accommodation and to want of cleanliness of a water closet. The complaints were remedied and the sanitary convenience referred to was found to be kept in a clean condition on subsequent visits.

Three canteens provided at factories were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

The number of outworkers in August, 1950 was 170.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Meat and other foods.—There are no Government slaughterhouses being operated within the Urban District. Slaughtering of animals is confined to the Ministry of Food Self-Suppliers of Pigs Scheme. Thirty notices were received giving notice of slaughter. All slaughtering was carried out at registered slaughterhouses. Nineteen carcases were inspected and no disease was noted.

Food Condemned.—Four 10lb. tins of tomatoes and three 3½lb. tins of Pork Brawn were condemned.

Fish Frying.—There are three Fish Frying establishments in the Urban District. These were kept in a clean condition throughout the year.

Bakehouses.—There is only one bakehouse in the town. This has been kept in a clean condition. Up-to-date sanitary accommodation is provided together with a constant supply of hot and cold water.

Ice Cream.—There are no licensed manufacturers of Ice Cream. Two further premises were registered for the sale of Ice Cream, bringing the total number registered to eight.

Clean Food Campaign.—The Council decided to support the suggestion of a County Clean Food Guild and the County Public Health Committee who had convened a conference on the matter decided to consider the question of the formation of a Guild, although three Authorities represented at that Conference wished to form their own Guild. The County Council ultimately decided, however, not to form a Guild which would not comprise the whole of the Administrative County. This decision was not approved by the Council and representations were again made for the formation of a Guild comprising those Authorities at the Conference mentioned who had agreed to join. The County Council, however, again declined to form a Guild on the same grounds.

The Council has made Byelaws under Sec.15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which came into operation on the 11th September, 1950, and copies of the Byelaws were issued to all food traders in the Urban District.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

The incidence of infectious disease was low throughout the year. There were no deaths and four cases were removed to Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925. These regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1950.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62 and Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172. No action was taken under this section whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

Three cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were no deaths ascribed to tuberculosis.

The number of cases in the Register at the end of 1950 was 30 of which 23 were suffering from respiratory tuberculosis.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1950

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
(Typhi-minum) Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	4
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	1	2	1	—	1	1	2	1	1	1	—	—	11

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1950

Disease	-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
(Typhi-minun) Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	2	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	2	2	—	1	11	4	—	—

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1950

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Period	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	2	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	2	—	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1950

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Age Period	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	—	—